



United States Attorney's Office
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Northern Virginia attorney found guilty in connection with a large-scale immigration fraud scheme

ALEXANDRIA, VA - A 50-year-old Northern Virginia attorney, Michael Mitry Hadeed, Jr., has been found guilty of conspiracy to commit immigration fraud and making false statements arising out of his role in a large-scale immigration fraud scheme, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor, Mark X. McGraw, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Washington Field Office, Joseph Persichini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Washington Field Office, and Robert Panella, Special Agent in Charge, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Labor, announced today.

Hadeed was found guilty earlier today by a federal jury in the Eastern District of Virginia. The defendant faces up to five years in prison on the conspiracy charge and five years on the false statement charge. He is scheduled to be sentenced on May 29, 2009, before the Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema.

The evidence at trial established that Hadeed, an attorney who practices law in Northern Virginia, conspired to commit immigration fraud and made false statements to a number of federal agencies, including the Department of Labor, the Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security. Beginning in 1999 and continuing through at least May 2004, the defendant filed fraudulent employment-based immigration documents on behalf of foreign nationals and aliens already in the United States seeking work authorization and permanent residency in the United States.

The defendant used the King of Pita Bakery in Alexandria, Virginia, to sponsor foreign nationals and aliens for either no-show jobs or jobs for which they were employed but not qualified. To support these immigration documents, the defendant created documents making false claims about the aliens' work experience and offers of employment.

"By trying to circumvent immigration and employment laws, Mr. Hadeed, a sworn member of the bar, violated his oath as a lawyer, while preying upon immigrants seeking

their piece of the American dream,” said U.S. Attorney Taylor. “In one instance, the evidence established that the defendant charged over \$20,000 to help an immigrant fraudulently obtain a green card. As a result of the today’s guilty verdicts, Mr. Hadeed appropriately will now pay a steep price for his unconscionable conduct.”

“ICE strives to protect the integrity of our immigration system from those who attempt to abuse it by detecting and dismantling these fraud schemes,” said Acting ICE Special Agent in Charge McGraw. “Disrupting these types of operations is crucial to stopping dangerous criminals and even potential terrorists from fraudulently entering the U.S. and obscuring their identities.”

In announcing today's verdict, U.S. Attorney Taylor, ICE Special Agent in Charge McGraw, FBI Assistant Director in Charge Persichini, and DOL OIG Special Agent in Charge Panella praised FBI Special Agents Gerald Kim, Bryan C. Gaines, and Ian P. Myers; ICE Special Agent Raymond S. Orzel; Special Agent Derek Pickle, as well as Sheena J. Liburd, Department of Labor; Gregory Richardson, U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services (CIS) Headquarters, Sarah Taylor, CIS District Director, and Mary Flores, CIS - Washington; Cathleen E. Carothers, U.S. Department of State; and Detective Douglas Comfort, Fairfax County Police Department. They also thanked Paralegal Specialist Heather J. Lee and Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy D. Belevetz, who assisted with trial preparation. Finally, they commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Asuncion and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott B. Nussbaum, who prosecuted the case.

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